

Louisiana Regional HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report

*Characteristics and Trends of
Reported HIV and AIDS Cases*

2001



Region II: Baton Rouge Region

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Regional Epidemiologic Profile

Region II: Baton Rouge Region

This profile summarizes the status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Baton Rouge region for cases diagnosed through 2001 and reported through May, 2002. Please refer to the technical notes (page 17) for information on the interpretation of HIV data.

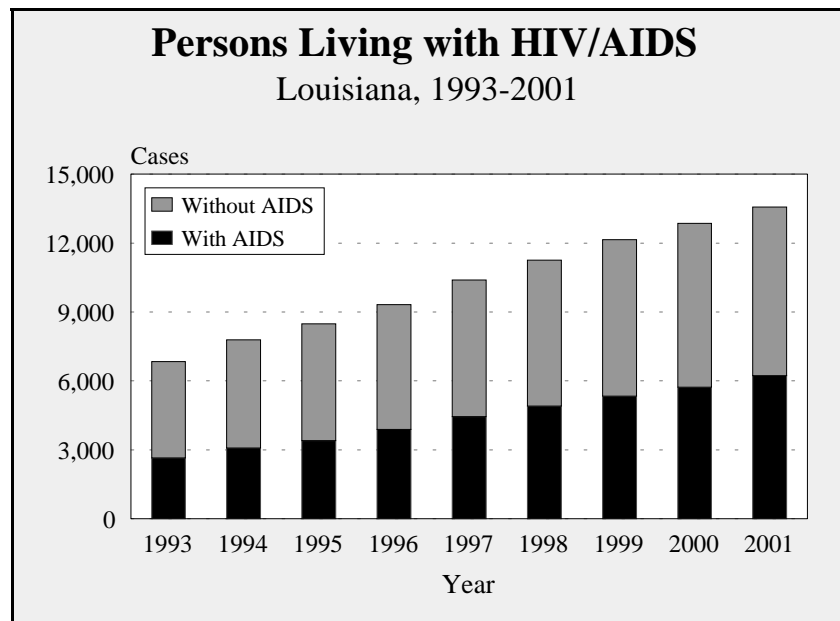
The following are highlights of this year's report for Region II:

- In 2001, the Baton Rouge region had the highest HIV/AIDS case rate in the state (47 cases out of every 100,000 persons). The Baton Rouge region has maintained a higher HIV/AIDS case rate than the New Orleans Region since 1996.
- Through 2001, the cumulative number of persons detected and reported with HIV infection was 4,228 in Region II. Also through 2001, 2,523 persons have been diagnosed with AIDS in Region II. In 2001 alone, 281 new cases of HIV infection were detected and 237 new AIDS cases were diagnosed. The Baton Rouge region is second only to the New Orleans Region in the number of new HIV/AIDS cases detected in 2001.
- According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's 2001 surveillance report, Baton Rouge ranked 7th in the nation among major metropolitan areas in AIDS case rates (number of AIDS diagnoses per 100,000 persons). In Region II, new AIDS diagnoses began to increase in 1999 and deaths among persons with AIDS began to increase in 2000.
- By the end of 2001, there were 2,858 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Region II. The number of persons living with HIV/AIDS continues to increase each year.
- In 2001, 86% of the newly-diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases in the region were African-American. The Baton Rouge region had the largest proportion of newly-diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among African-Americans in the state.
- Consistent with all 9 regions in the state, African-American men have the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the Baton Rouge region. One hundred and twenty-three out of every 100,000 African-American men in Region II were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 2001.
- Women continue to represent an increasing proportion of newly-diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases statewide. In 2001, the Baton Rouge region had the second largest proportion of newly-diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among women (41%).
- In every region of the state, except the Baton Rouge region, the largest proportion of newly-diagnosed cases in 2001 were attributed to men who have sex with men (MSM). In the Baton Rouge region, both injection drug use (33%) and high risk heterosexual contact (40%) accounted for larger percentages of the newly-diagnosed cases than did MSM (27%). When cases were adjusted for risk redistribution, high risk heterosexuals accounted for the largest proportion of HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in 2001 in Region II (see pg 17 for explanation of risk redistribution).

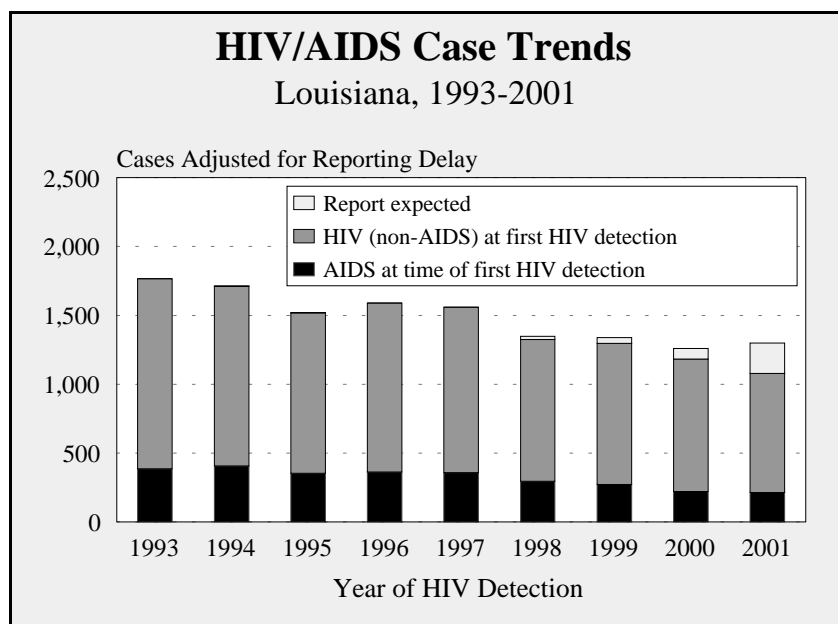
As the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues in persons at high risk and expands in persons who may not recognize their risk (e.g. women, sexual partners of persons at high risk), health care providers can play an important role in preventing HIV/AIDS. Physicians, nurses, and other health care workers should talk to every patient about his/her sexual behavior and recommend specific steps to decrease risky behavior, including reducing the number of sexual partners and using condoms routinely. As AIDS is still an incurable disease, the few minutes spent in this counseling can save more lives than all medical interventions that are available.

Public Health Regions

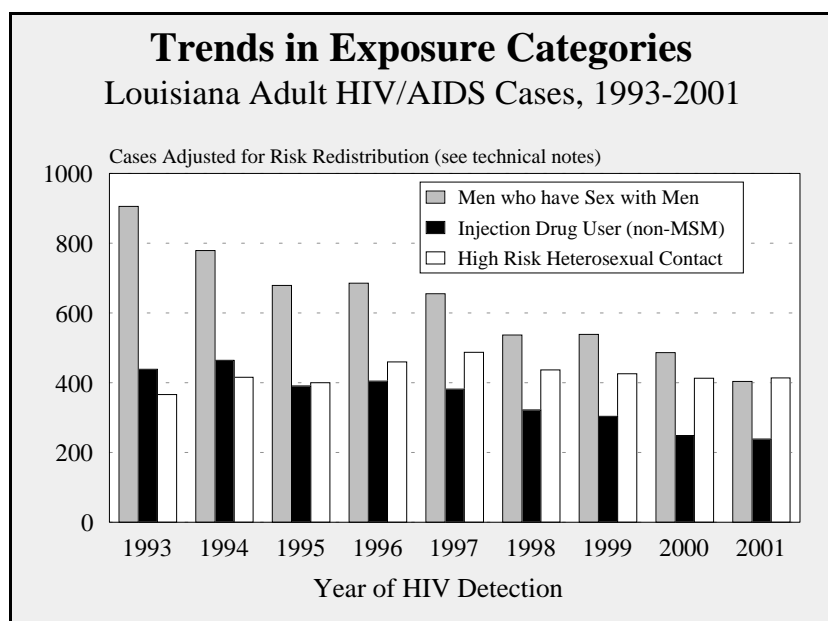
<u>Region</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Parishes</u>
I	New Orleans	Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard
II	Baton Rouge	Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Ponte Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
III	Houma	Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Terrebone
IV	Lafayette	Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermillion
V	Lake Charles	Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis
VI	Alexandria	Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, La Salle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn
VII	Shreveport	Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster
VIII	Monroe	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll
IX	Hammond/Slidell	Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington



- The number of persons living with HIV continues to increase each year. At the end of 2001, 13,565 persons were known to be living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana, of whom 6,236 (46%) had progressed to AIDS. This trend is largely due to the introduction of effective drug treatment and therapies, which delay the progression from HIV to AIDS and AIDS to death.



- In 2001, 1,078 new HIV/AIDS cases were detected statewide. Since 1993, the number of newly-detected HIV/AIDS cases has decreased by over a third, from 1,766 cases detected in 1993 to 1,078 cases detected in 2001.
- Of the newly detected cases in 2001, 22% were diagnosed with AIDS at the time of first HIV-detection.



- The largest proportion of cases detected in 2001 (38%) were attributed to heterosexual contact, after adjusting for unreported risk.
- Cases among MSM, including MSM/IDU accounted for 37% of all cases detected in 2001; however nearly half of all persons living with HIV in Louisiana (48%) may have been exposed to the virus through male-male sexual contact.

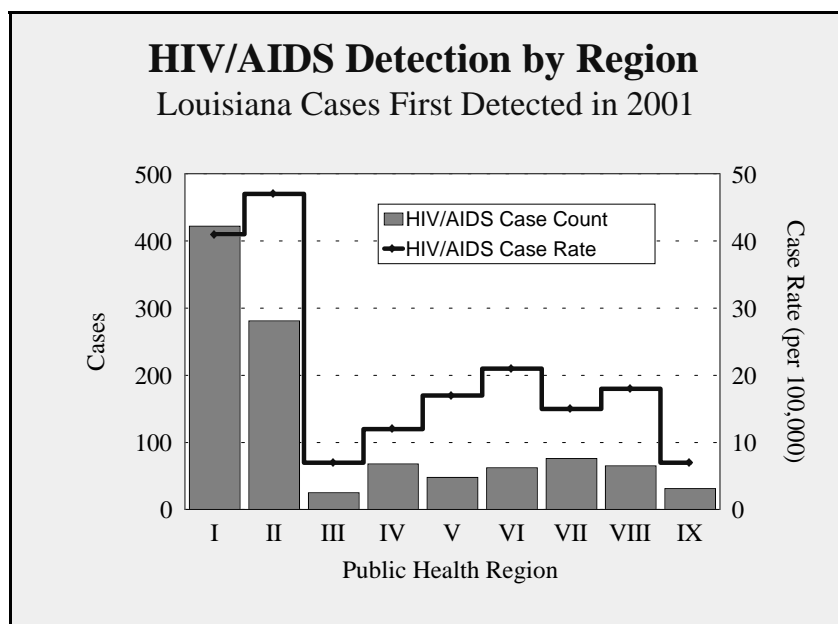
STATEWIDE

Louisiana HIV/AIDS Cases and Case Rates by Parish									
PARISH	AIDS DX ^a in 2001	HIV/AIDS Detected in 2001	HIV/AIDS Detection Rate, 2001 ^b	Cum HIV/AIDS Cases ^c	PARISH	AIDS DX ^a in 2001	HIV /AIDS Detected in 2001	HIV/AIDS Detection Rate, 2001 ^b	Cum HIV/AIDS Cases ^c
Statewide	858	1,078	24	21,584	Region VI	35	62	21	881
Region I	343	422	41	10,604	Avoyelles	6	10	24	193
Jefferson	68	93	20	1,844	Catahoula	2	4	n/a	22
Orleans	271	321	66	8,563	Concordia	2	3	n/a	43
Plaquemines	0	2	n/a	42	Grant	3	6	32	30
St. Bernard	4	6	9	155	La Salle	0	1	n/a	7
Region II	237	281	47	4,228	Rapides	17	33	26	444
Ascension	9	14	18	148	Vernon	2	3	n/a	72
East Baton Rouge	185	230	56	3,371	Winn	3	2	n/a	70
East Feliciana	10	9	42	117	Region VII	56	76	15	1,285
Iberville	14	15	45	231	Bienville	0	2	n/a	18
Pointe Coupee	5	3	n/a	59	Bossier	6	6	6	132
West Baton Rouge	4	6	28	115	Caddo	34	53	21	885
West Feliciana	10	4	n/a	187	Claiborne	6	2	n/a	58
Region III	27	25	7	644	De Soto	4	6	24	34
Assumption	0	0	n/a	29	Natchitoches	2	4	n/a	80
LaFourche	4	3	n/a	101	Red River	0	0	n/a	9
St. Charles	2	2	n/a	92	Sabine	1	1	n/a	23
St. James	3	0	n/a	57	Webster	3	2	n/a	46
St. John the Baptist	2	3	n/a	84	Region VIII	51	65	18	946
St. Mary	3	4	n/a	94	Caldwell	1	1	n/a	16
Terrebone	13	13	12	187	East Carroll	5	9	96	36
Region IV	49	68	12	1,281	Franklin	0	0	n/a	22
Acadia	8	9	15	104	Jackson	1	0	n/a	16
Evangeline	3	4	n/a	46	Lincoln	1	1	n/a	67
Iberia	6	9	12	109	Madison	4	7	51	63
Lafayette	14	20	10	639	Morehouse	3	1	n/a	60
St. Landry	14	14	16	211	Ouachita	30	35	24	534
St. Martin	2	8	16	87	Richland	4	7	33	52
Vermilion	2	4	n/a	85	Tensas	1	2	n/a	29
Region V	34	48	17	859	Union	1	0	n/a	33
Allen	4	2	n/a	141	West Carroll	0	2	n/a	18
Beauregard	3	3	n/a	60	Region IX	26	31	7	856
Calcasieu	23	39	21	595	Livingston	4	7	8	123
Cameron	1	1	n/a	8	St. Helena	0	0	n/a	10
Jefferson Davis	3	3	n/a	55	St. Tammany	9	10	5	353
					Tangipahoa	6	10	10	190
					Washington	7	4	n/a	180

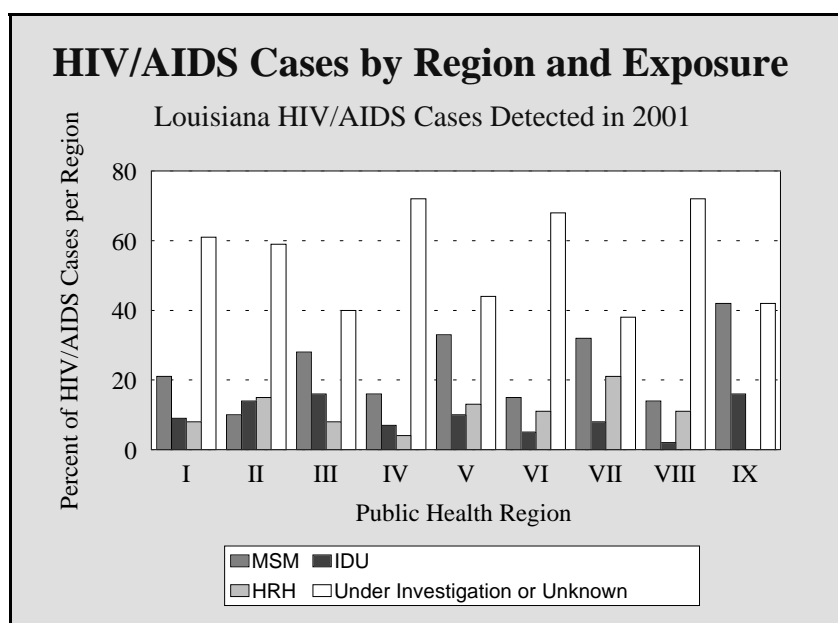
^a DX—Diagnosed with AIDS. AIDS diagnoses will be included in counts of HIV/AIDS detection (2nd column) for persons first detected with HIV at an AIDS diagnosis; therefore numbers from the two columns should not be added.

^b Rates per 100,000 persons in parish. Rates are unstable and not available (n/a) for parishes with low case counts.

^c Cumulative HIV/AIDS may be interpreted as minimum number of cases reported in parish.



- The New Orleans region had the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases detected in 2001. However, in 2001 as in past years, the Baton Rouge region surpassed the New Orleans region in HIV/AIDS detection rates (number of cases per population in the region).



- In every region of the state, except the Baton Rouge region, the largest proportion of newly-detected cases in 2001, with an identified exposure, were attributed to MSM exposure. In the Baton Rouge region, both injection drug use and high-risk heterosexual contact accounted for larger percentages of the newly-detected cases than did male-male sexual contact.

REGION II, HIV DATA

Characteristics of HIV-Infected Persons (HIV/AIDS)^a

Region II: Baton Rouge Region

Persons with HIV/AIDS First Detected in 2001					Persons Living with HIV/AIDS	
These columns reflect persons with HIV infection (HIV/AIDS) whose positive status was first detected in 2001 through confidential testing. Some of these persons may have been diagnosed with AIDS at the time HIV was first detected; therefore, this column does not reflect new cases of HIV infection but rather new cases of HIV detection.					This column reflects the <u>minimum</u> number of persons living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2001. This column includes persons living with AIDS.	
	Statewide		Region II			
	Cases	Percent ^b	Cases	Percent ^b	Cases	Percent ^b
TOTAL	1,078	100%	281	100%	2,858	100%
Gender						
Men	689	64%	164	58%	1,852	65%
Women	389	36%	117	42%	1,006	35%
Ethnicity						
African-American	796	74%	241	86%	2,327	81%
White	243	23%	31	11%	501	18%
Other	33	3%	7	2%	26	1%
Unknown	6	1%	2	1%	4	<1%
Age Group	Age at HIV Detection		Age at HIV Detection		Age at End of 2001	
Under 13	10	1%	3	1%	35	1%
13-24	219	20%	64	23%	242	8%
25-34	285	26%	69	25%	754	26%
35-44	316	29%	79	28%	1,110	39%
Over 44	248	23%	66	23%	717	25%
Exposure Group ^c						
MSM ^d	189	43%	25	22%	496	26%
IDU ^d	107	24%	38	33%	762	40%
MSM and IDU	14	3%	2	2%	149	8%
HRH ^d	121	27%	46	40%	448	23%
Trans/Hemo	2	1%	1	1%	33	2%
Perinatal	10	2%	3	3%	36	2%
Unspecified ^e	635	59%	166	59%	934	33%
Urban/Rural Parishes						
Urban	929	86%	250	89%	2,383	83%
Rural	149	14%	31	11%	475	17%

^aHIV data collection started in 1993. Positive results of anonymous tests are not included due to the likelihood of repeated tests.

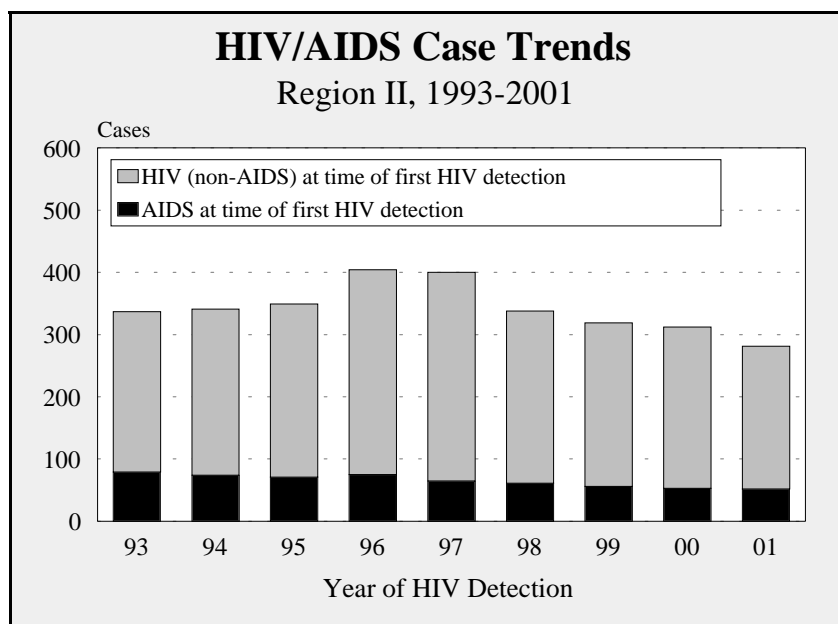
^bPercentages might not add up to 100% due to missing values and rounding errors.

^cPercents for identified exposure groups represent the distribution among those with a specified exposure.

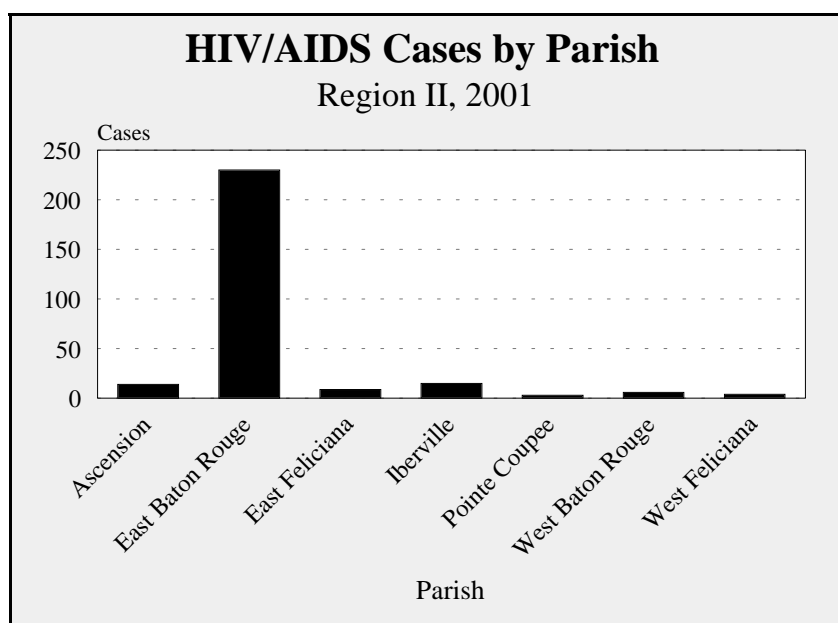
^dMSM: Men who have Sex with Men (non-IDU); IDU: Injection Drug Users; HRH: High-Risk Heterosexual.

^eUnspecified Exposure refers to cases whose exposure group is under investigation or unknown.

REGION II, HIV DATA

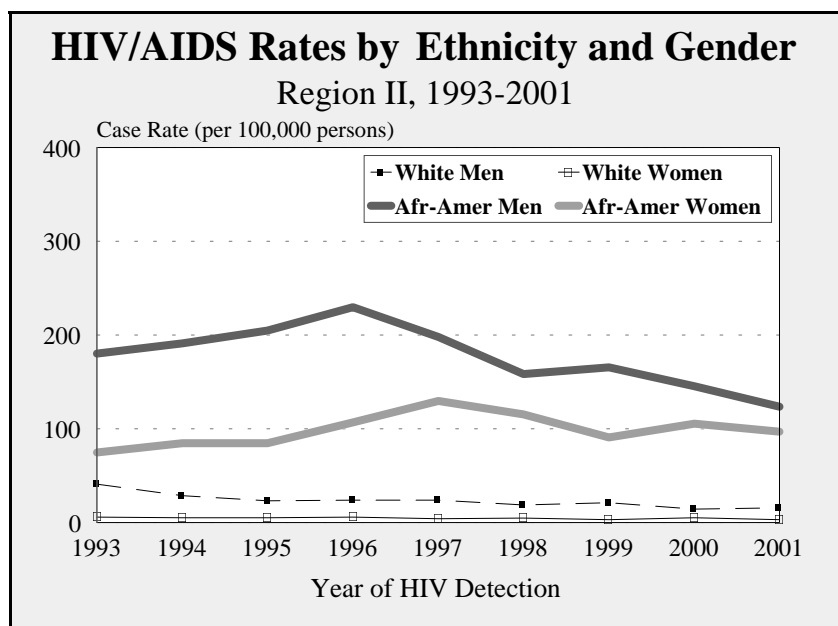


- Since 1996, Region II has seen a consistent decline in the number of HIV/AIDS cases detected each year. However, the Baton Rouge region had the highest detection rate in the state for 2001.

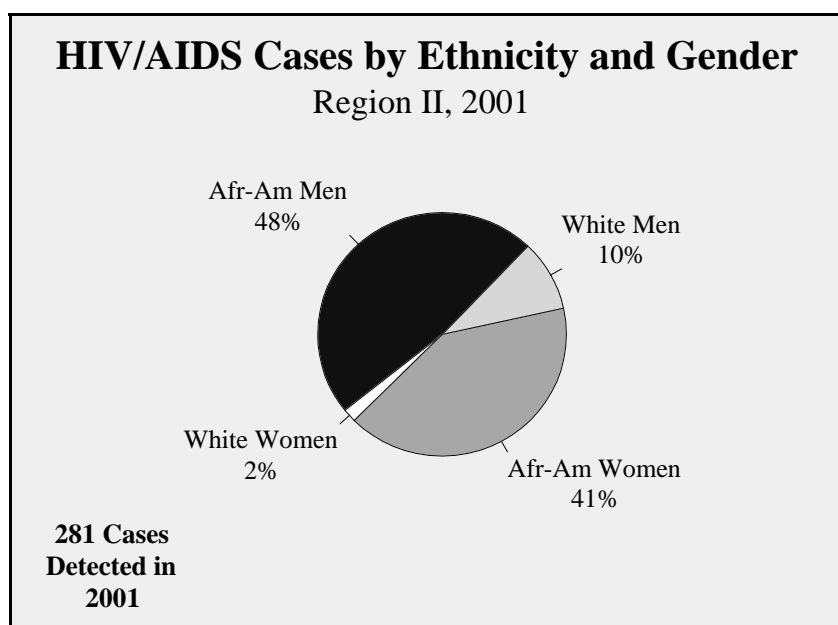


- East Baton Rouge Parish had the greatest number of new cases in the Baton Rouge region for 2001. In 2001, new cases of HIV/AIDS were detected in 57 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. The highest rates of newly-detected cases were in East Carroll, Orleans, East Baton Rouge and Madison parishes.

REGION II, HIV DATA

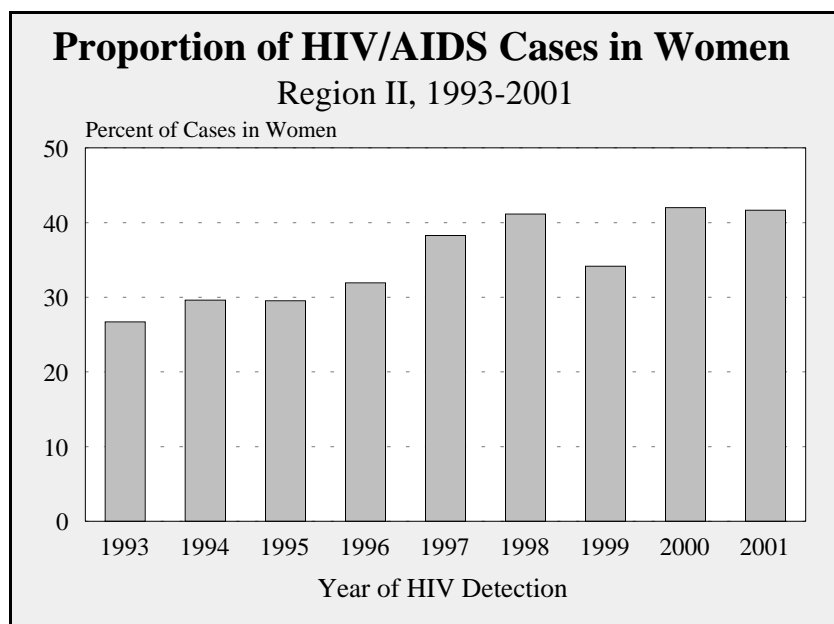


- Detection rates among African-American men remained the highest of all groups in the Baton Rouge region; however rates have decreased in this group since 1996. Rates in white men, white women, and African-American women have remained relatively stable.

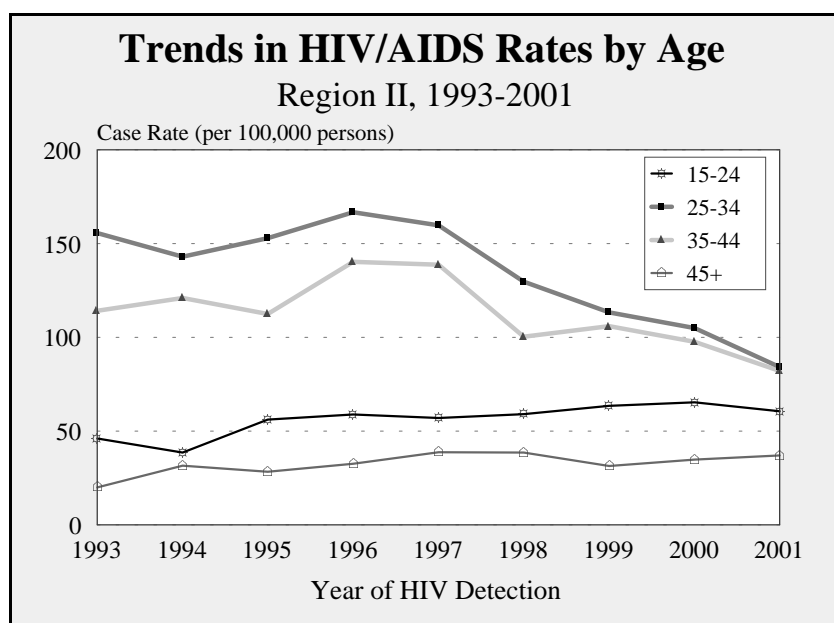


- Forty-eight percent (48%) of all new cases detected in Region II in 2001 were among African-American men. African-American women comprised 41% of all new cases detected in 2001.

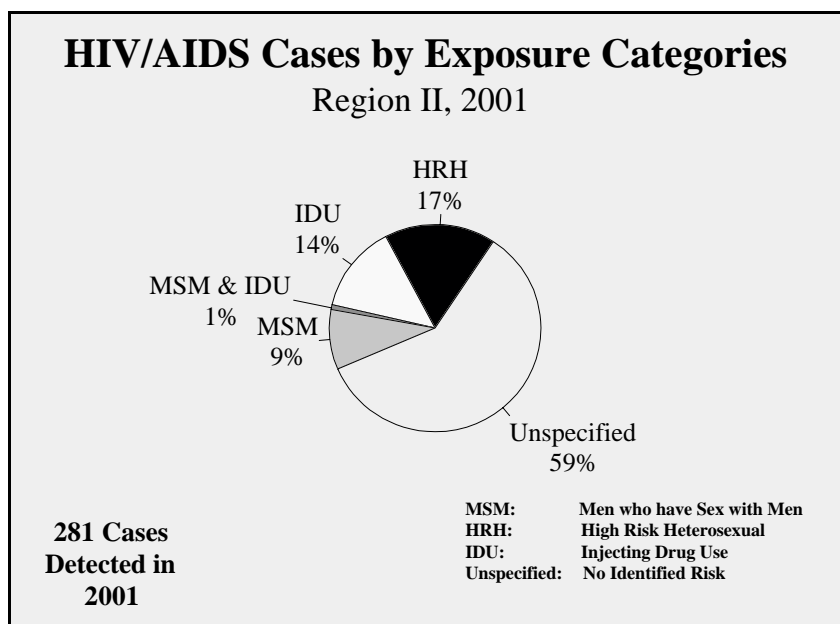
REGION II, HIV DATA



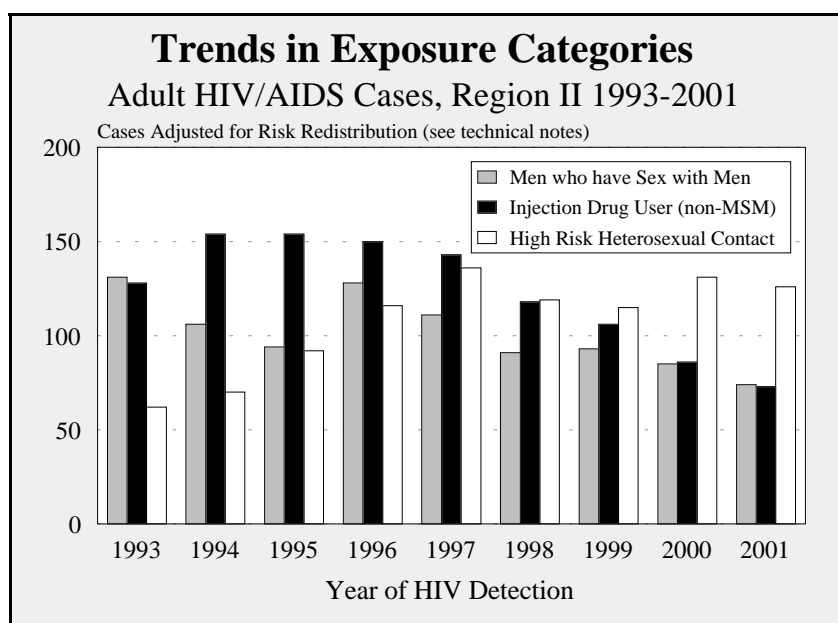
- The percentage of newly-detected HIV/AIDS cases reported among women in Louisiana has steadily been increasing. In 2001, 42% of new cases in the Baton Rouge region were among women compared to 36% statewide.



- In 2001, as in past years, persons 25 to 34 years of age had the highest rates of newly-detected cases. However, the HIV/AIDS detection rate among this age group has been declining while the rates among persons 15 to 24 and 45 years of age and older have remained relatively stable.

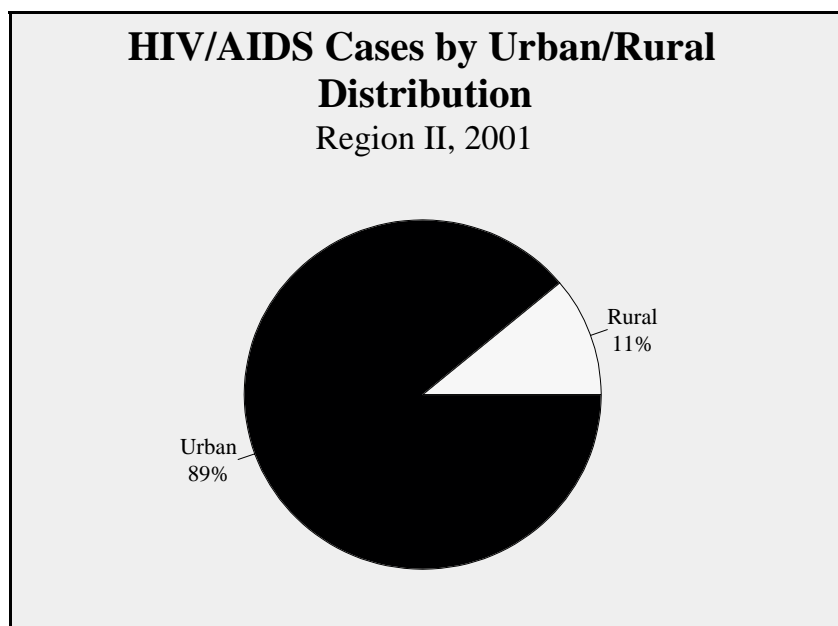


- In 2001, 59% of newly-detected cases in the Baton Rouge region were reported without any mode of exposure.

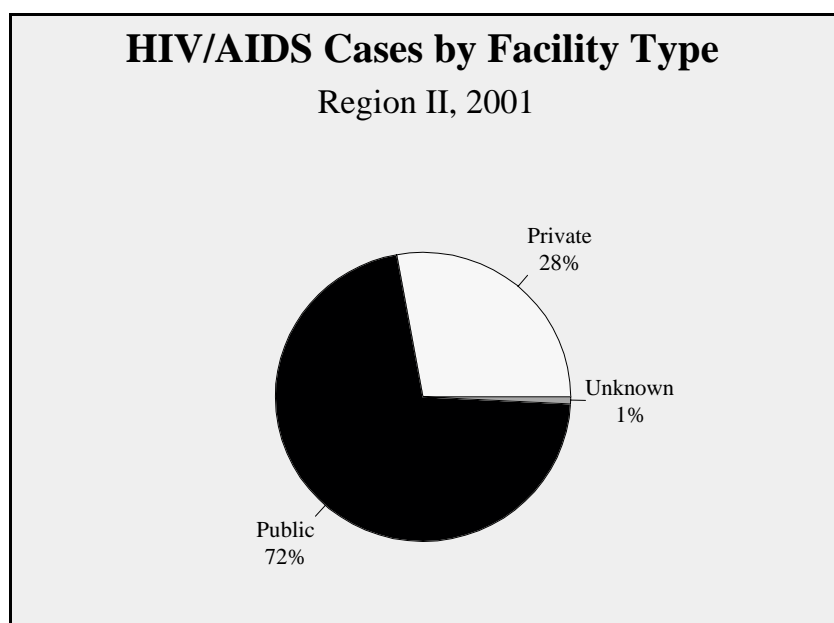


- After adjusting for unreported risk, high-risk heterosexual contact is the predominant mode of exposure in Region II for 2001.

REGION II, HIV DATA



- The majority of cases detected in 2001 in the Baton Rouge region, were detected among persons who were living in an urban parish.

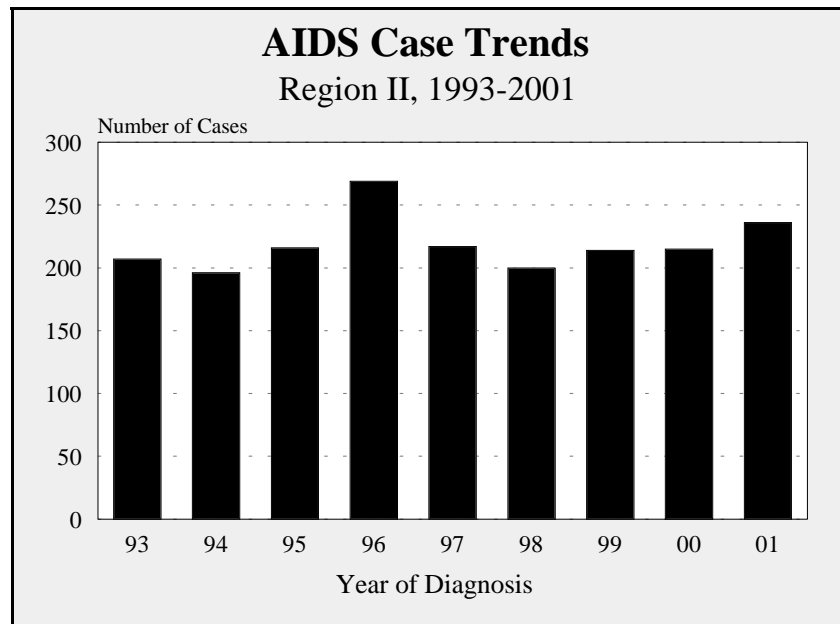


- Seventy-two percent (72%) of newly-detected cases in 2001 were detected in a public facility.

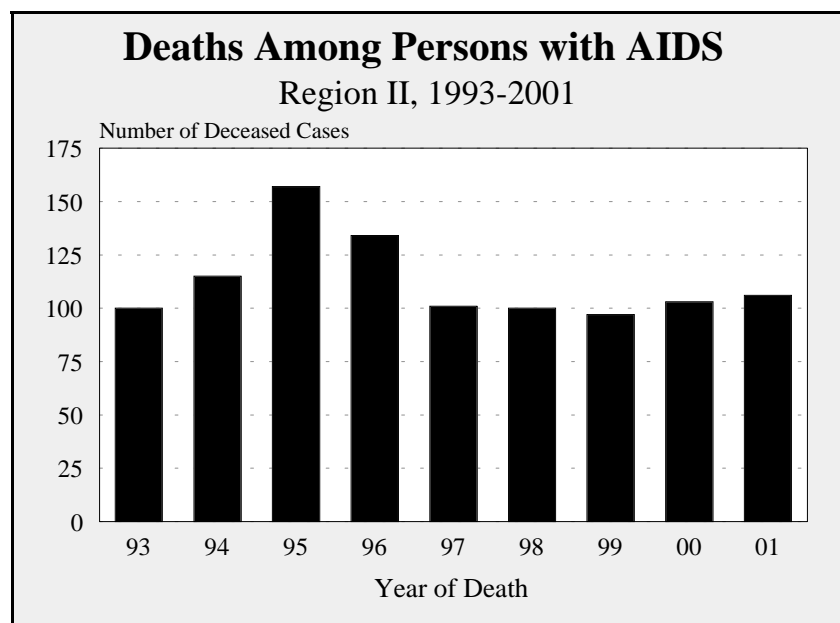
REGION II, AIDS DATA

Characteristics of AIDS Cases Region II: Baton Rouge Region				
	<u>AIDS Cases Diagnosed in 2001</u>		<u>Cumulative AIDS Cases</u>	
	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Percent^a</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Percent^a</u>
TOTAL	237	100%	2,523	100%
Gender				
Men	153	65%	1,953	77%
Women	84	35%	570	23%
Age Group				
Under 13	0	0%	19	1%
13-24	16	7%	167	7%
25-34	70	30%	911	36%
35-44	85	36%	948	38%
45+	66	28%	478	19%
Ethnicity^b				
African-American	200	84%	1,838	73%
White	34	14%	665	26%
Hispanic	2	1%	16	1%
Other	1	<1%	4	<1%
Ethnicity^b and Gender				
Af-Am Men	124	52%	1,325	53%
White Men	26	11%	609	24%
Hispanic Men	2	1%	15	1%
Other Men	1	<1%	4	<1%
Af-Am Women	76	32%	513	20%
White Women	8	3%	56	2%
Hispanic Women	0	0%	1	<1%
Other Women	0	0%	0	0%
Exposure Category^c				
MSM	25	19%	709	34%
IDU	65	49%	834	40%
MSM and IDU	7	5%	201	10%
HRH	35	26%	284	14%
Trans/Hemo	2	2%	43	2%
Perinatal	0	0%	19	1%
<i>Unspecified</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>17%</i>
Urban/Rural Parishes				
Urban	199	84%	2,128	84%
Rural	38	16%	394	16%
Facility Type				
Public	166	70%	1,729	69%
Private	71	30%	787	31%
^a Percentages might not add up to 100% due to missing values and rounding errors. ^b Cases and rates by ethnicity do not include cases whose race/ethnicity is unknown. ^c MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; IDU = Injection Drug User; HRH = High-Risk Heterosexual; Unspecified = Still under investigation or unknown. See technical notes for further explanation.				

REGION II, AIDS DATA

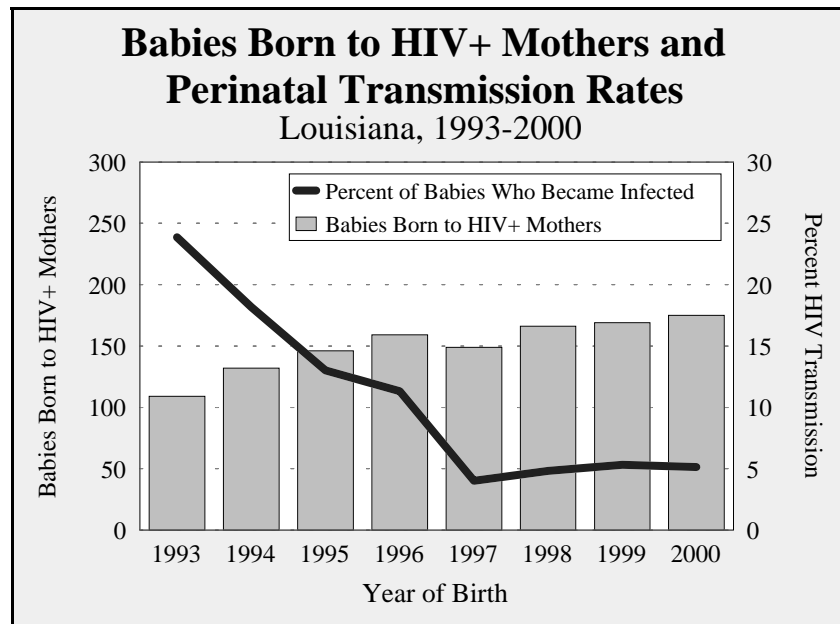


- Statewide, the number of new AIDS cases increased in 2001 for the first time since the introduction of new drug therapies in 1996. In the Baton Rouge region, the number of new AIDS cases began to increase in 1999.

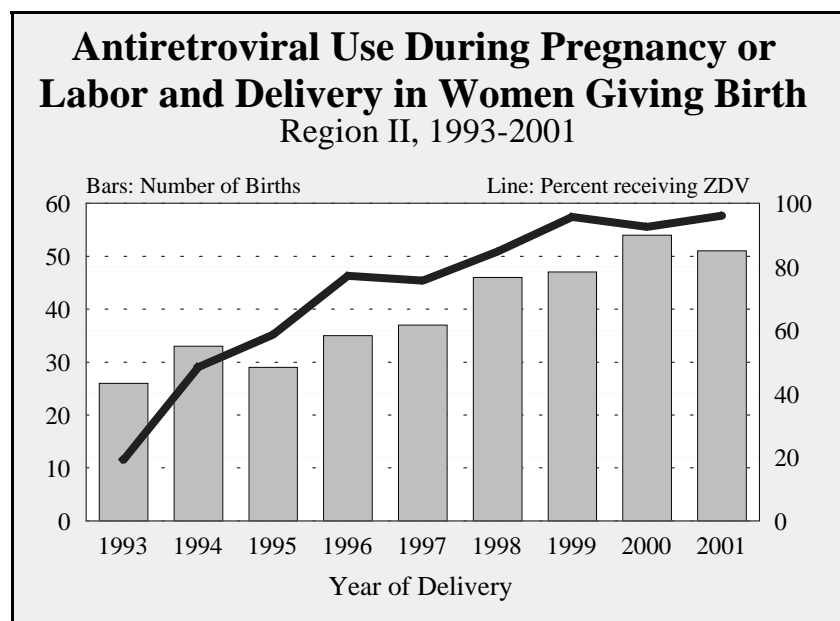


- In 2001, 106 deaths among persons diagnosed with AIDS occurred in the Baton Rouge region.
- Thirty percent (30%) of AIDS-related deaths occurred among persons living in in Region II, although only 20% of persons living with AIDS reside in the Baton Rouge region.

REGION II, PERINATAL DATA



- Perinatal transmission rates dropped dramatically from 1993 to 1997 with the introduction and widespread use of antiretrovirals during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and to the baby after birth. In recent years, the perinatal transmission rates have remained fairly stable. However, the number of HIV-infected babies will continue to increase as the number of babies born to HIV-infected mothers rises due to growing numbers of women living with HIV.



- As of May 2002, 151 HIV-infected women were reported to have given birth in 2001 statewide; 51 of these women resided in Region II. While 94% of the HIV-infected women giving birth statewide received AZT in 2001, 96% of HIV-infected pregnant women received AZT in Region II.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Interpretation of HIV Detection Data

Because antiretroviral treatment regimens are initiated earlier in the course of HIV infection than previous treatments, effective therapies postpone and/or prevent the onset of AIDS, resulting in a decrease in AIDS incidence. Consequently, recent incident AIDS data can no longer provide the basis of HIV transmission estimates and trends, and the dissemination of surveillance data has moved toward placing heavier emphasis on the representation of HIV-positive persons. Throughout this report, all AIDS data are depicted by characteristics at year of AIDS diagnosis under the 1993 AIDS case definition, whereas HIV data are characterized at year of HIV detection (earliest positive test reported to the health department).

HIV detection data are not without limitations. Although HIV detection is usually closer in time to HIV infection than is an AIDS diagnosis, data represented by the time of HIV detection must be interpreted with caution. Unlike AIDS data where the date of diagnosis is relatively precise for monitoring AIDS incidence, HIV detection trends do not accurately depict HIV transmission trends. This is because HIV detection data represent cases who were reported after a positive result from a confidential HIV test, which may first occur several years after HIV infection. In addition, the data are under detected and under reported because only persons with HIV who choose to be tested confidentially are counted. HIV detection counts do not include persons who have not been tested for HIV and persons who only have been tested anonymously.

Therefore, HIV detection data do not necessarily represent characteristics of persons who have been recently infected with HIV, nor do they provide true HIV incidence. Demographic and geographic subpopulations are disproportionately sensitive to differences and changes in access to health care, HIV testing patterns, and targeted prevention programs and services. All of these issues must be carefully considered when interpreting HIV data.

Definitions of the Exposure Categories

For the purposes of this report, HIV/AIDS cases are classified into one of several hierarchical exposure (risk) categories, based on information collected. Persons with more than one reported mode of exposure to HIV are assigned to the category listed first in the hierarchy. Definitions are as follows:

- **Men who have Sex with Men (MSM):** Cases include men who report sexual contact with other men, i.e. homosexual contact or bisexual contact.
- **Injection Drug User (IDU):** Cases who report using drugs that require injection - not other route of administration of illicit drug use at any time since 1978.
- **High-Risk Heterosexual Contact (HRH):** Cases who report specific heterosexual contact with a person who has HIV or is at increased risk for HIV infection, e.g. heterosexual contact with a homosexual or bisexual man, heterosexual contact with an injection drug user, or heterosexual contact with a person known to be HIV-infected.
- **Hemophilia/Transfusion/Transplant (Hemo/Transf):** Cases who report receiving a transfusion of blood or blood products prior to 1985.
- **Perinatal:** HIV infection in children resulting from transmission from an HIV+ mother to her child.

- **Unspecified:** Cases who, at the time of this publication, have no reported history of exposure to HIV through any of the routes listed in the hierarchy of exposure categories. These cases represent logistical issues of surveillance and do not imply that modes of transmission other than sexual, blood, and perinatal are suspected. “Unspecified” cases include: persons for which the surveillance protocols to document the risk behavior information have not yet been completed and are still under investigation; persons whose exposure history is incomplete because they have died, declined risk disclosure, or were lost to follow-up; persons who deny any risk behavior; and persons who do not know the HIV infection status or risk behaviors of their sexual partners.

Case Definition Changes

The CDC AIDS case definition has changed over time based on knowledge of HIV disease and physician practice patterns. The original definition was modified in 1985¹. The 1987 definition² revisions incorporated a broader range of AIDS opportunistic infections and conditions and used HIV diagnostic tests to improve the sensitivity and specificity of the definition. In 1993, the definition was expanded³ to include HIV-infected individuals with pulmonary tuberculosis, recurrent pneumonia, invasive cervical cancer, or CD4 T-lymphocyte counts of less than 200 cells per ml or a CD4⁺ percentage of less than 14. A result of the 1993 definition expansion caused HIV-infected persons to be classified as AIDS earlier in their course of disease than under the previous definition. Regardless of the year, AIDS data are tabulated in this report by the date of the first AIDS defining condition in an individual under the 1993 case definition.

The case definition for HIV infection was revised in 1999⁴ to include positive results or reports of detectable quantities of HIV virologic (nonantibody) tests. The revisions to the 1993 surveillance definition of HIV include additional laboratory evidence, specifically detectable quantities from virologic tests. The perinatal case definition for infection and seroreversion among children less than 18 months of age who are perinatally exposed to HIV has been changed to incorporate the recent clinical guidelines and the sensitivity and specificity of current HIV diagnostic tests in order to more efficiently classify HIV-exposed children as infected or non-infected.

Adjustment and Estimation Techniques

The period of time between when a case is diagnosed and when it is reported (reporting delay) causes distortions in trends for recently diagnosed cases. Reporting delays were estimated using a maximum likelihood procedure, taking into account possible differences in reporting delays among exposure, geographic, ethnic, age, and gender categories. The estimated number of cases that will be reported are presented as “expected” cases. Adjustment programming was developed by CDC (HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 1994; 6(2): 37-38).

Recently reported cases, especially HIV (non-AIDS) cases, are more likely to be reported without a specified risk (exposure), thereby causing a distorting decrease among trends in exposure categories. Thus, proportions and graphic representation of trends among risk groups use estimated cases based on risk redistribution. This redistribution is based on preliminary national sex-and race- specific exposure classification distributions of previously unspecified HIV cases in the southern states. These redistribution parameters are similar to those based on national AIDS cases diagnosed prior to 1993 as well as those based on the distribution of specified cases in Louisiana.

¹ MMWR 1985; 34: 373-75.

² MMWR 1987; 36 [Supp no.1S]: 1S-15S.

³ MMWR 1992; 41[RR-17]: 1-19.

⁴ CDC 1999; 48[RR13]: 1-27.